



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Agencies Continue Swimming Advisories for Kentucky Lakes and Streams

E.coli threat creates potential for illnesses

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 1, 2014) - The Kentucky Division of Water and the Department for Public Health today announced that swimming advisories, in place because of high levels of E. coli bacteria, will remain in effect until further notice.

People should avoid recreational contact with waters in the areas specified because of the bacteria which occur in human and animal waste and indicate the presence of untreated or inadequately treated sewage. The bacteria create a potential for diarrheal illnesses and other infectious diseases. The swimming advisories will remain in effect for the following areas:

Upper Cumberland River

The Cumberland River from Four Mile Bridge (Highway 2014) to Pineville at the Highway 66 Bridge and from Wallins Creek Bridge (Highway 219) to Harlan.

- Martins Fork from Harlan to the Cawood Water Plant.
- All of Catron Creek, all of Clover Fork and all of Straight Creek.
- Poor Fork from Harlan to Looney Creek.
- Looney Creek from the mouth to Lynch Water Plant Bridge.

Kentucky River

North Fork of the Kentucky River upstream of Chavies. Although still above recommended levels, water quality has continued to improve and is approaching an acceptable level for swimming in some stretches of the river.

Licking River

Banklick Creek to the confluence with the Ohio River.
The swimming advisory includes all of Banklick Creek and Three Mile Creek.

Inadequate or failing sewage treatment systems can contribute to water quality problems along Kentucky water ways. Efforts by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and local environmental health staff to ensure all new septic system installations are installed properly, and work by the Division of Water and wastewater plant operators to monitor wastewater treatment plant compliance are reducing bacterial pollution from these possible sources. Work by both agencies is gradually reducing the number of discharges and improving water quality.

Residential and agricultural areas

The agencies also recommend against swimming or other full-body contact with surface waters immediately following heavy rainfall events, especially in dense residential, urban and livestock production areas. This recommendation is due to an increased potential for exposure to pollution from urban nonpoint source pollution, bypasses from sewage collection systems, combined sewer overflows and pollution from livestock waste. The public should avoid recreating in stream segments below wastewater treatment facility outfalls, confined animal feedlots or other obvious sources of pollution during anytime of the year.

The agencies urge the public to use a common sense approach for summertime recreation. Avoid areas with obvious green or brown surface scums or obvious foul odors. The cabinets want everyone to have a safe and healthy summer enjoying the Commonwealth's water resources.

For additional information about the safety of Kentucky's rivers and streams for swimming, contact [John Brumley](#), Water Quality Branch, 502-564-3410.

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